The ROYAL LEGACY of the SANATAN VAISHNAV BAIRAGIS

FROM THE BAIRAGI KINGS OF DELHI TO
BANDA BAIRAGI, CHHUIKHADAN AND RAJNANDGAON

DELHI
BAIRAGI KINGS

BANDA BAIRAGI
THE WARRIOR SAINT

CHHUIKHADAN
A LEGACY OF DEVOTION

RAJNANDGAON
A HERITAGE OF GLORY

NARESH DAS VAISHNAV NIMBARK

www.nareshswaminimbark.in

NIMBARKA BAIRAGI KINGS

The Royal Legacy of the Sanatan Vaishnav Bairagis

From the Bairagi Kings of Delhi to Banda Bairagi, Chhuikhadan and Rajnandgaon

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Naresh Das Vaishnav Nimbark

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Historical references cited in this book are sourced from authenticated public domain documents including Satyarth Prakash (1882) by Maharishi Dayanand Saraswati and other verified historical records. The views expressed are solely those of the author based on 18 years of independent field research.

Dedication

This book is humbly dedicated to

the memory of those great Vaishnav Bairagi saints and warriors

who ruled not for power, but for Dharma.

Who carried the rosary in one hand and the sword in the other.

Who sat on royal thrones yet never forgot the path of renunciation.

Who gave everything for Sanatan Dharma — and asked for nothing.

Their names were erased from history.

This book is a small attempt to restore their rightful place.

— Naresh Das Vaishnav Nimbark

A Note from the Author

I am not a historian by profession. I am a soldier who picked up a pen.

I have no university degree in history. I have no research grants. I have no institutional support.

What I have is eighteen years of walking — village to village, temple to temple, pilgrimage to pilgrimage. What I have is the dust of a hundred sacred paths on my feet. What I have is the memory of elderly saints whose stories would have died with them — had I not been there to listen.

I have written this book with honesty, humility, and the deepest reverence for the Vaishnav Bairagi tradition. Every fact is sourced. Every claim is verified. Every doubt is acknowledged.

If scholars find errors — I welcome their corrections.

If researchers find more — I welcome their additions.

This book belongs not to me — it belongs to the Vaishnav Bairagi tradition.

— Naresh Das Vaishnav Nimbark

Preface

History is written by those who survive. But what about those who sacrificed everything — and left no one behind to tell their story?

This is the question that kept me awake for eighteen years.

I am Naresh Das Vaishnav Nimbark. I was born on 7 May 1964 in a poor Vaishnav farmer's family in the small village of Ramnagar, Sonipat, Haryana. I served in the Indian Army for 24 years. I fought in the Kargil War. I served as a United Nations Peacekeeper in Sierra Leone, West Africa.

It was in Sierra Leone — when militants held me captive and death stared me in the face — that I made a promise to myself. If I survive, I will not waste this life. I will find those forgotten warriors of Sanatan

tradition. I will give them back their rightful place in history.

I survived. And I kept my promise.

After retirement, for eighteen long years, I travelled from village to village, temple to temple, pilgrimage to pilgrimage. I read ancient manuscripts. I studied rare documents. I sat with elderly saints and listened to their memories. And slowly — a forgotten chapter of Indian history began to emerge.

Who knew that Indraprastha — Delhi itself — was once ruled by Vaishnav Bairagi saints for nearly fifty years? Who knew that Veer Banda Bairagi fought ninety-one battles and never lost a single one? Who knew that Vaishnav Bairagi saints established and ruled the princely states of Rajnandgaon and Chhuikhadan for nearly two hundred years — building museums, railways, cotton mills and stadiums for the people?

This book is my humble attempt to bring these forgotten kings back into the light of history.

— Naresh Das Vaishnav Nimbark | Ramnagar, Haryana | 2026

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PART I — THE BAIRAGI KINGS OF INDRAPRASTHA

Source: Satyarth Prakash (Chapter 11), Maharishi Dayanand Saraswati, 1882

Chapter 1

Hari Prem Bairagi — The First Bairagi King of Indraprastha

Among the most remarkable yet forgotten chapters of Indian history is the reign of Vaishnav Bairagi saints over Indraprastha — the ancient seat of Delhi, the very heart of Bharatvarsha.

Maharishi Dayanand Saraswati, in his monumental work Satyarth Prakash (Chapter 11), has preserved a detailed chronological account of the rulers of Indraprastha. Within this record lies a chapter that has never received the attention it deserves — the reign of the Vaishnav Bairagi kings.

After the death of Rani Padmawati — who left no heir — the ministers and nobles collectively decided to place Hari Prem Bairagi on the throne of Indraprastha. This was not merely a political decision. It was a testament to the immense spiritual authority

and public trust that the Vaishnav Bairagi tradition commanded.

Hari Prem Bairagi — The Founding King

Hari Prem Bairagi became the first Vaishnav Bairagi ruler of Indraprastha. He ruled with justice, dharma, and the spirit of renunciation. His reign lasted 7 years, 5 months and 16 days. He was not a king who sought power — he was a saint upon whom power was bestowed.

Source: Satyarth Prakash, Chapter 11 (Ekadash Samullas), Maharishi Da
Edition. Arsh Sahitya Prachar Trust, Delhi. ISBN: 978-81-954740-1-1. Pag

Chapter 2

Govind Prem Bairagi — The Longest Reign

After the righteous rule of Hari Prem Bairagi, the throne passed to Govind Prem Bairagi — who would rule for the longest period among all four Bairagi kings of Indraprastha.

Govind Prem Bairagi ruled for 20 years, 2 months and 5 days — a reign spanning two full decades. The name Govind Prem itself speaks volumes — Govind, the beloved of the Vaishnav tradition, and Prem, divine love. A king whose very name carried devotion ruled the ancient capital of India for twenty years.

His reign demonstrated that saints who renounce worldly attachments are often the most capable of governing justly — because they rule without greed, without ambition, and without the corrupting desire for personal gain.

Source: Satyarth Prakash, Chapter 11 (Ekadash Samullas), Page 323-32

Chapter 3

Gopal Prem Bairagi — The Devoted King

The third Vaishnav Bairagi ruler of Indraprastha was Gopal Prem Bairagi — whose name carries the essence of the Vaishnav tradition. Gopal — the beloved name of Lord Krishna — and Prem — divine love.

Gopal Prem Bairagi ruled for 15 years, 7 months and 28 days. A king who carries the name of Gopal rules not merely as a political administrator, but as a devoted servant of dharma — one who sees his subjects as his flock and his kingdom as a sacred trust.

His fifteen-year reign further cemented the Vaishnav Bairagi tradition's legacy as rulers of Indraprastha — rulers who brought dharma to the throne of Delhi.

Source: Satyarth Prakash, Chapter 11 (Ekadash Samullas), Page 323-32

Chapter 4

Mahabahu Bairagi — The King Who Chose Renunciation

The fourth and final Vaishnav Bairagi ruler of Indraprastha was Mahabahu Bairagi — whose story is perhaps the most extraordinary of all four kings.

Mahabahu ruled for 6 years, 8 months and 29 days. But it is not the length of his reign that makes his story remarkable — it is what he did at the end of it.

The King Who Returned to the Forest

After fulfilling his royal duties, Mahabahu Bairagi renounced the throne. He left the royal palace and retired to the forest for penance and meditation — returning to the very essence of the Vaishnav Bairagi tradition from which he had come.

These kings did not cling to their thrones. They ruled because dharma demanded it. And when dharma was served, they returned to the path of devotion.

The Complete Bairagi Royal Dynasty of Indraprastha

No.	Mahant Raja (Bairagi)	
1	Hari Prem Bairagi	7
2	Govind Prem Bairagi	2
3	Gopal Prem Bairagi	
4	Mahabahu Bairagi	6

Total Reign: Approximately 50 Years

Source Reference: Satyarth Prakash (Ekadash Samullas — Chapter 11), Saraswati, 1882. Arsh Sahitya Prachar Trust, Delhi. ISBN: 978-81-95474

PART I — VEER BANDA BAIRAGI (1670–1716)

Chapter 5

From Lachman Dev to Madho Das Bairagi — Birth, Renunciation and Initiation

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Among the greatest warrior-saints of Sanatan tradition, Veer Banda Bairagi stands apart — not merely as a military commander, but as a Vaishnav Bairagi ascetic who took up arms only when dharma demanded it.

Birth and Early Life

Veer Banda Bairagi was born on 27 October 1670 in the Rajouri region of Jammu. His childhood name was Lachman Dev. From his earliest years, he demonstrated qualities of courage, justice, leadership and deep spiritual contemplation.

The Turning Point — Vairagya at the Age of 15

At the age of fifteen, while hunting, he killed a pregnant deer. The sight of the dying deer and her unborn fawn struck his heart with profound sorrow. That moment became his turning point. He

renounced the worldly life immediately and set out on the path of vairagya.

Bairagi Initiation — Ramdaman Das Bairagi

Lachman Dev came into contact with the Vaishnav Bairagi saint Ramsaman Das Bairagi, from whom he received formal Bairagi diksha. After this sacred initiation, he was given the name Madho Das Bairagi. He established a monastery at Nanded in present-day Maharashtra.

Right until the end of his life, he never forgot his identity. His last words:

"I was a Bairagi. I am a Bairagi. I will always remain a Bairagi."

Sources: Cultural India (learn.culturalindia.net) | SikhNet (sikhnet.com) | A research including visits to birth site near Akhnoor, Jammu.

Chapter 6

Susheel Kanwar — The Warrior's Wife

Susheel Kanwar was the only daughter of Maharaja Udai Singh of Chamba State. She was raised as a Sahajdhari. The wedding took place in March 1711 at Chamba. In 1712, she gave birth to their son Ajai Singh — also known as Ajai Bairagi.

When Veer Banda Bairagi marched to Gurdas Nangal for his final stand, Susheel Kanwar accompanied him with their infant son. On December 7, 1715, the Mughal army captured Veer Banda Bairagi, Susheel Kanwar and young Ajai Bairagi.

In June 1716, when the Mughals offered one final choice — convert or watch your son die — he refused. His four-year-old son Ajai Bairagi was killed before his eyes. He did not break. He did not bow.

Source: Susheel Kaur — Wikipedia | Author's field research | Book: Baba Bhakti Se Shakti Tak, Amarjeet Singh.

Chapter 7

Meeting with Guru Gobind Singh — The Saint Becomes a Warrior

In September 1708, Guru Gobind Singh visited the monastery of Madho Das Bairagi at Nanded. Guru Gobind Singh sent him to Punjab with five beloved companions, a Nishan Sahib, a Nagara, and five arrows. He was declared the military successor of Guru Gobind Singh.

Dr. Hari Ram Gupta, the celebrated Sikh historian who wrote five volumes on the History of Sikhs, has confirmed that Guru Gobind Singh made Banda his disciple but did not administer Amrit or make him Khalsa.

First Stop — Sehri Khanda, Sonipat

Historical records and the Haryana government gazetteer confirm that Banda Bairagi first halted at the village of Sehri Khanda in Sonipat district — at the Bairagi monastery of Mahant Kishan Das Baba.

It was this Bairagi support that gave him the strength to fight.

Sources: Cultural India | SikhNet | Book: Baba Banda Singh Bahadur, Am
Haryana Government Gazette | Author's field research.

Chapter 8

Sirhind Victory — 12 May 1710 — Justice for the Martyrs

On 12 May 1710, at Chappar Chiri near Sirhind, Veer Banda Bairagi defeated and killed Wazir Khan — the man responsible for the martyrdom of Guru Gobind Singh's two young sons. After the fall of Wazir Khan, the entire region from the Sutlej to the Yamuna came under Veer Banda Bairagi's control.

The Revolutionary Step — Land to the Tillers

On the very day of Sirhind victory, Veer Banda Bairagi abolished the zamindari system and gave land ownership rights to those who tilled the soil. Farmers of all faiths and castes received land titles. His army included soldiers of all communities. He never discriminated on the basis of religion, caste, or community.

Sources: Book: Baba Banda Singh Bahadur, Amarjeet Singh (Pages 21-2
Company Letter XII, March 10, 1715-16 | Author's field research.

Chapter 9

The Siege of Gurdas Nangal — Encircled but Unbroken

On 29 August 1710, Bahadur Shah issued an extraordinary order — all Hindus in the Mughal army were ordered to shave their beards, so no Sikh spy could infiltrate. This single order is proof of how deeply Veer Banda Bairagi had shaken the Mughal empire.

In 1715, Veer Banda Bairagi reached Gurdas Nangal. The Mughal army besieged it. For eight months they held out. On December 7, 1715, the fort fell. Veer Banda Bairagi, Susheel Kanwar, young Ajai Bairagi and approximately 780 followers were captured. Around 2,000 heads were mounted on poles and paraded through Delhi.

The British East India Company's Letter XII — written by John Surman and Edward Stephenson to Fort William — records this event, noting with

astonishment the extraordinary courage of those who accepted death rather than abandon their faith.

Sources: British East India Company — Letter XII (March 10, 1715-16) | E Bahadur, Amarjeet Singh (Pages 25-26) | Madras Diary and Consultation Range 239.

Chapter 10

9 June 1716 — Martyrdom and Immortal Legacy

On 9 June 1716, at Mehrauli, Delhi, Veer Banda Bairagi faced his executioners. The Mughals offered him one last chance — convert to Islam and live. He refused. His four-year-old son was killed before his eyes. His body was torn apart limb by limb. Through every moment of this unbearable torture, he did not utter a word of surrender.

"I was a Bairagi. I am a Bairagi. I will always remain a Bairagi."

The British Letter XII records: 'It is not a little remarkable with what patience they undergo their fate, and to the last it has not been found that one apostatized from this new formed Religion.'

Ganda Singh, a Punjabi historian, first used the name 'Banda Singh Bahadur' in 1935. Before 1935, no

historical record uses this name. He was born a Bairagi. He lived as a Bairagi. He died as a Bairagi.

The author has personally visited the martyrdom site at Mehrauli, Delhi — and has felt the presence of that great soul in the soil beneath his feet.

Sources: British East India Company — Letter XII | Madras Diary and Co
No. 87, Range 239 | SikhNet | Book: Baba Banda Singh Bahadur, Amarje
research.

PART II — THE BAIRAGI KINGDOMS OF CHHATTISGARH

Section A: Chhuikhadan Riyasat (1750–1948)

Chapter 11

The Bairagi Kingdoms of Chhattisgarh — Where Dharma Met the Throne

In the vast canvas of India's 562 princely states, two kingdoms stand apart — not for their size, but for the extraordinary nature of their rulers. The kingdoms of Rajnandgaon and Chhuikhadan in Chhattisgarh were governed for nearly 200 years by Vaishnav Bairagi saints of the Nimbarka Sampraday.

These were not rulers who inherited power through birth or conquest. They were ascetic monks — men who had renounced the world — yet upon whom the responsibility of governance was placed because the people trusted their dharma.

In 1757, while the Battle of Plassey was changing the fate of India, the kingdom of Chhuikhadan was taking its first steps. In 1765, when the Mughal empire was

collapsing, the foundation of Rajnandgaon was being laid by a Bairagi saint from Punjab.

The author of this book undertook a research journey of approximately 4000 kilometres from his village of Ramnagar, Haryana, to Rajnandgaon and Chhuikhadan in December 2014 — a pilgrimage to the land where Bairagi saints had reigned as kings.

Sources: Author's field research — December 10-15, 2014 | Book: Chhuik Thakur Virendra Bahadur Singh | Book: Historical Background of Princely Singh

Chapter 12

The Nimbarka Bairagi Kingdoms — A Historical Introduction

Both Chhuikhadan and Rajnandgaon were established by Bairagi saints from Punjab-Haryana who came to Chhattisgarh for the propagation of Sanatan Dharma. Through all 200 years, the title of the ruler remained 'Mahant' — not merely 'Raja'. This single fact speaks volumes about the spiritual identity these rulers never abandoned.

It is a profound irony of Indian historiography that the contribution of Vaishnav Bairagi kings — who built colleges, museums, railways, and stadiums for the people — has never received the recognition it deserves. This book is an honest attempt to restore it to its rightful place.

Sources: Author's field research | Dr. Shailendra Singh | Chhuikhadan: Pa
Bahadur Singh

Chapter 13

The Dynasty of Chhuikhadan — Royal Family Lineage (1730–2024)

The royal lineage of Chhuikhadan was provided to the author by royal family member Lalla Jitendra Kishore Das Vaishnav during the author's visit in December 2014. Even after the merger of the kingdom into the Indian Union in 1948, the royal family has continued to uphold the traditions of the Nimbarka Bairagi faith.

When the author visited Chhuikhadan in December 2014, Lalla Jitendra Kishore Das personally welcomed him, showed him the temples of the four Dhams built by the Bairagi kings, hosted him for the midday meal during a community bhoj, and spent the entire day sharing the history of his ancestors.

Source: Royal family member Lalla Jitendra Kishore Das Vaishnav, Chhu

Chapter 14

The Vaishnav Bairagi Tradition — Philosophy and Identity

The word Mahant comes from the Sanskrit 'Ant' + 'Mahat' — meaning 'one whose end is great'. The Vaishnav tradition recognises four Jagadguru Acharyas: Sri Nimbarkacharya (whose followers worship Radha-Krishna), Sri Ramanandacharya (Sita-Ram), Sri Madhvacharya, and Sri Vishnu Swami.

Ramanandacharya's 36 principal disciples established their own Dwars at different locations. Nimbarkacharya's 12 disciples established 12 Dwars. Together with 4 more from the other traditions, these make 52 Bairagi Dwars in total — including one in present-day Pakistan where Veer Banda Bairagi received his initiation.

Over time, a branch of Vaishnav Bairagi families chose complete renunciation — forming the Akharas. These Vaishnav Bairagi Akharas, time and again

through history, took up arms to defend Sanatan Dharma against invaders.

Sources: Vaishnav Bairagi tradition records | Author's 18 years of field res

Chapter 15

The Author's Sacred Journey — Ramnagar to Rajnandgaon

On 10 December 2014, with the blessings of his elders, Naresh Das Vaishnav Nimbark set out from Ramnagar, Haryana — beginning a 4000-kilometre research pilgrimage to the Bairagi kingdoms of Chhattisgarh.

Journalist-historian Thakur Virendra Bahadur Singh arrived within minutes of being called — carrying books in one hand and tea and snacks in the other. From the first moment, it felt as though they had known each other for lifetimes. He gifted the author his book 'Chhuikhadan: Par Dar Par' — a seminal work on the history of the Bairagi kingdoms.

The researchers visited Digvijay College — the largest college in Chhattisgarh — which stands in the palace donated by Mahant Digvijay Yugal Kishore

Das. They also visited the Digvijay Hockey Stadium — Asia's largest hockey ground — where Major Dhyan Chand himself had played.

Source: Author's personal testimony — December 2014 | Thakur Virendra Rajnandgaon

Chapter 16

Chhuikhadan — Where the Air Resounds with Jai Gopal

On 12 December 2014, the author arrived at Chhuikhadan bus stand. From every direction came the sound of 'Jai Gopal!' — the traditional greeting of Chhuikhadan, a legacy of the Bairagi kings who were devoted to Lord Krishna. Every resident of the town greets each other with 'Jai Gopal' — 270 years of living spiritual tradition.

Royal family member Lalla Jitendra Kishore Das Vaishnav was waiting at the bus stand itself. From the first moment of meeting, it felt as though they had known each other across lifetimes. He took the author to the Rani Mandir — a 105-year-old Laxminarayan temple — and showed him the temples of all four Dhams built by the Bairagi kings.

An interesting anecdote: when asked whether the Bairagi kings — being Krishna devotees — ever hunted, Lalla Jitendra Kishore Das replied that one tiger had become a man-eater. Only then did the Bairagi king hunt it. Even in their use of force, these rulers were guided by dharma.

Source: Royal family member Lalla Jitendra Kishore Das Vaishnav, Chhu
2014

Chapter 17

Mahant Raja Rup Das Bairagi — The Founding King (1750)

Mahant Rup Das Bairagi — both a spiritual master and a skilled strategist — chose the land of Chhuikhadan as his centre. Under his leadership, a group of Bairagi monks — skilled in both mala (rosary) and sword — came together.

His governance was based on the concept of Ramrajya — impartial justice, construction of ponds and tanks for farmers' welfare, and a disciplined defence force. His personality was so commanding that even the major rulers of that era respected him. The flame he lit in 1750 continues to burn today.

Sources: Book: Chhuikhadan — Par Dar Par, Thakur Virendra Bahadur S
Lalla Jitendra Kishore Das Vaishnav | Author's field research

Chapter 18

Raja Bhudar Kishore Das Bairagi — The King Who Chose Ram over the Throne

In 1939, when the British government ordered Indian soldiers to fire upon their own countrymen agitating for freedom — Mahant Raja Bhudar Kishore Das Bairagi refused. He would not give such an order. Rather than comply, he renounced his throne. He left the palace, the kingdom, and the royal life that he and his ancestors had built over nearly 200 years. And he went to Ayodhya — to the feet of Lord Ram — to spend his remaining years in prayer, devotion, and peace.

This act — refusing British orders and choosing Ram over the royal throne — is one of the most extraordinary acts of patriotism and dharma in the history of India's princely states. Yet it finds no place in mainstream history books.

Sources: Author's field research | Royal family member Lalla Jitendra Kish
Chhuikhadan — Par Dar Par

Chapter 19

The Administrative System of Chhuikhadan Riyasat

The riyasat had four courts of justice: High Court (presided by the Raja), Diwan Court (powers of District Magistrate and Sessions Judge), Naib Diwan Court (up to 2 years imprisonment), and Tehsil Court.

The police force comprised a Police Inspector with 8 Head Constables and 24 Constables, plus a Bodyguard unit. By 1933, the riyasat had four police stations: Bidora, Chhuikhadan, Berotra, and Bundeli. The riyasat comprised 110 villages — 84 inhabited and 26 uninhabited. Medical treatment for patients was provided free of charge.

Chapter 20

Mahant Raja Rituparno Kishore Das Bairagi — The Last Ruler (Until 1948)

Mahant Raja Rituparno Kishore Das Bairagi was the last ruling Mahant of Chhuikhadan Riyasat. On 1 January 1948, Chhuikhadan Riyasat was merged into the Indian Union. The kingdom that Mahant Rup Das Bairagi had founded in 1750 — that had survived for 198 years — formally became part of independent India.

Even today, the people of Chhuikhadan give the royal family the same respect and love that was given to their ancestors. Lalla Jitendra Kishore Das served as an Assistant Professor before retirement. The large school that runs in one wing of the palace demonstrates how the family has adapted while maintaining their ancestral legacy.

Source: Royal family member Lalla Jitendra Kishore Das Vaishnav, Dece personal testimony

Chapter 21

The Founding of Chhuikhadan — Rise of Bairagi Power

The Chhuikhadan Riyasat may have been the smallest riyasat in Chhattisgarh by area, but in terms of national consciousness and patriotism, it stood at the forefront of even the largest kingdoms.

The preservation of this history owes much to Dr. Shailendra Singh, who located rare manuscripts from the homes of freedom fighters, and to Thakur Virendra Bahadur Singh — whose birthplace is Chhuikhadan itself — who preserved the cultural and human dimensions of this history in his book 'Chhuikhadan: Par Dar Par'.

Sources: Book: Chhuikhadan — Par Dar Par | Book: Historical Backgrour
Shailendra Singh

Chapter 22

Chhuikhadan — The Paan Capital and its Spiritual Identity

Chhuikhadan was famous throughout India for its superior quality betel leaf (paan). The Bairagi kings built temples of all four major pilgrimage sites (Char Dhams) within Chhuikhadan itself — bringing Badrinath, Dwarka, Puri and Rameshwaram to the doorstep of the common people.

The 105-year-old Laxminarayan temple — the Rani Mandir — still stands as a monument to the devotion of these ruler-monks. Every morning and evening, bhajans ring through the town. The greeting 'Jai Gopal' echoes from every corner — 270 years of living spiritual tradition.

Sources: Author's personal testimony — December 12, 2014 | Royal fami
Kishore Das Vaishnav

Chapter 23

The Nirmohi Akhara and the Two Bairagi Kingdoms

Both Chhuikhadan and Rajnandgaon Riyasats were associated with the Nirmohi Akhara — one of the most important Vaishnav Bairagi Akharas in India. Both kingdoms maintained strong ties with the Vaishnav Bairagi Akharas, providing generous financial support during the Kumbh Mela — an expression of the rulers' identity as Vaishnav saints who happened to sit on royal thrones.

Chapter 24

The Administrative Departments and Officers of Chhuikhadan

The Raja held supreme authority over all departments. Revenue was administered through Parganas and Circles. The Malguzar in each village collected revenue, assisted by the Kotwar who maintained village security. Medical care was provided free to all patients — a policy that placed the kingdom far ahead of its time in terms of public welfare.

Sources: Book: Chhuikhadan — Par Dar Par | Imperial Gazetteer of India

Chapter 25

The Rise of Chhuikhadan — Mahant Rup Das Bairagi's Courage and Vision

Mahant Rup Das Bairagi's governance was based entirely on the concept of Ramrajya: impartial justice — because one who has no personal desires cannot be biased; construction of ponds and tanks for farmers' welfare; and a defence force that protected the land from external threats.

His personality was so commanding that even the large rulers of the era respected him. The flame he lit in 1750 has continued to burn for 270 years — and burns still today in the persons of Lalla Jitendra Kishore Das and Lalla Shridhar Kishore Das Vaishnav Bairagi.

Sources: Book: Chhuikhadan — Par Dar Par | Royal family member Lalla Vaishnav | Author's field research — December 2014

PART II — Section B: Rajnandgaon Riyasat (1765–1948)

From One Lamp to Another — A New Chapter in Bairagi Royal History

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Chapter 26

Rajnandgaon Bairagi Riyasat — A New Chapter in History

The story of Rajnandgaon Riyasat is among the most remarkable in India's history of princely states — this kingdom was not won by war, not inherited by birth, and not granted as a reward. It was built from nothing by the spiritual authority and perseverance of a Vaishnav Bairagi saint from Punjab.

The Dynasty at a Glance

No.	Mahant Raja (Bairagi)
1	Mahant Prahlad Das Bairagi (Founder — Brahmachari)
2	Mahant Hari Das Bairagi (Brahmachari)
3	Mahant Ram Das Bairagi (Brahmachari)
4	Mahant Raghuvar Das Bairagi (Brahmachari)

5	Mahant Himanchal Das Bairagi (Brahmachari)	
6	Mahant Mauji Ram Das Bairagi (First Married Mahant)	
7	Mahant Ghasi Das Bairagi (First Feudatory Chief)	
8	Mahant Raja Balram Das Bairagi	
9	Mahant Raja Rajendra Das Bairagi (Minor Chief)	
10	Mahant Raja Sarveshwar Das Bairagi	
11	Mahant Raja Digvijay Das Bairagi (Last Ruler)	

Sources: Book: Mahant Bane Maharaja, Naresh Das Vaishnav Nimbark | December 2014

Chapter 27

Mahant Prahlad Das Bairagi — The Patriarch (1765)

Mahant Prahlad Das Bairagi was originally from the Sohpur-Suhagpur region of Punjab. He travelled with his followers to Ratanpur — then capital of Chhattisgarh — carrying shawls from Punjab to sell and fund his religious mission of propagating Sanatan Dharma.

The ruler Bimbaji Bhonsale was deeply moved by his music and astrology, and along with his seven queens, accepted initiation. Mahant Prahlad Das became the Rajguru and received Rs. 2 per village as religious donation — accumulating wealth he used to provide loans to zamindars.

When zamindars could not repay, their zamindaris were acquired. In 1765, four zamindaris came together — and Rajnandgaon Riyasat was founded. Mahant Prahlad Das Bairagi became its Patriarch.

Sources: Book: Mahant Bane Maharaja | Historian Dr. Shailendra Singh |

Chapter 28

Mahant Hari Das Bairagi — The Compassionate Administrator

Mahant Hari Das expanded the kingdom through moneylending — acquiring Pandadah zamindari. He built the Jagannath temple inside the Pandadah fort and constructed a pond beside it. Both stand to this day. The Rath Yatra celebration he began continues as a celebrated festival.

During times of famine, he suspended revenue collection and opened the state treasury and granaries for the people. His compassion once led him to empty the entire state treasury — resulting in inability to pay the annual tribute to Nagpur. Despite

the hardship, he did not waver in his duty to protect his people. In his final years, he became a complete sannyasi.

Sources: Book: Mahant Bane Maharaja | Book: Rajnandgaon Jile Ka San
field research

Chapter 29

Mahant Ram Das and Mahant Raghuvar Das — Expanding the Kingdom

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The first six Mahants of Rajnandgaon were all brahmacharins — celibate monks who governed a kingdom without marriage or heirs. Succession passed from guru to chosen disciple. During Mahant Raghuvar Das's time, the Bhonsales of Nagpur granted him royal insignia including an elephant, a palanquin, a drum, a banner, and a musket — formal recognition of royal status.

Sources: Book: Mahant Bane Maharaja | Historian Dr. Shailendra Singh

Chapter 30

Mahant Himanchal Das Bairagi — The Singer-Saint Who Won Freedom from Prison

Unable to pay tribute to Nagpur due to drought and oppressive taxation, Mahant Himanchal Das was arrested and taken to Nagpur. He was housed in the Bhonsale guest quarters — where, as he did every day, he sang his devotional compositions on Lord Krishna.

His singing was so moving that Bhonsale king Raghuji III and his queens were completely enchanted. They released him immediately, cancelled all outstanding tribute, and as an additional gift gave him the Mohgaon (Saja) Pargana. This remarkable event occurred in 1830 — proof of the transformative power of Bhakti.

Sources: Book: Mahant Bane Maharaja | Historical records from Rajnandg

Chapter 31

Mahant Mauji Ram Das Bairagi — The First Married Mahant

Mahant Mauji Ram Das was the first Mahant to enter grihasthashram — to marry and establish a family. He is also credited with making Rajnandgaon the capital of the kingdom through an extraordinary act of non-violence.

A border dispute arose with Khairagarh. When Khairagarh chose military force, Mahant Mauji Ram Das immediately evacuated Pandadah and sent a message: 'Peace and humanity are the highest achievements of mankind. A man's true dignity comes not from weapons, but from wisdom. If you want victory — I declare you victorious without a battle.' On reading this, the king of Khairagarh said: 'This is not my victory — it is my defeat.' He turned his army around and went back.

Sources: Book: Mahant Bane Maharaja | Historical records | Author's field

Chapter 32

Mahant Ghasi Das Bairagi — Builder of Modern Rajnandgaon (1865–1883)

Mahant Ghasi Das was the first ruler officially recognised as a Feudatory Chief by the British in 1865. He designed Rajnandgaon with a planned layout that remains a model even today. All main roads converge at central squares. Drainage channels slope north to south — so well designed that not a single blockage has occurred in 150 years.

He established the Bhulanbag (maze garden), built the Delhi Darwaza (later renamed Subhash Dwar), began Rani Sagar lake, and gave all railway land to BNR Railway free of charge — enabling the Nagpur-Kolkata railway line. In 1875, he built an octagonal building at his own expense and donated it for the Raipur museum — now the Mahant Raja Ghasi Das Museum, one of India's 10 oldest.

Sources: Book: Mahant Bane Maharaja | Rajnandgaon District Cultural H
December 2014

Chapter 33

Mahant Raja Balram Das Bairagi — The Builder of Economic Prosperity

When severe famine struck in 1892, Mahant Balram Das conceived a permanent solution — establishing the Central Provinces Cotton Mills (CP Mills Limited) at a cost of approximately Rs. 16 lakh in collaboration with Macbeth Company of Kolkata. This was one of the first modern industrial enterprises in central India.

He established Ghasi Das Anglo Vernacular Middle School in 1888, the Rajnandgaon Municipal Council in 1889, and the Balram Printing Press — from which the first newspaper 'Prajahitaishi' was published. He also donated Rs. 2 lakh for water works on the Khaarun river at Raipur. He passed away on 25 August 1897.

Sources: Book: Mahant Bane Maharaja | District records | Author's field re December 2014

Chapter 34

Mahant Raja Sarveshwar Das and Raja Digvijay Das — The Final Glory

Mahant Raja Sarveshwar Das Bairagi — born in March 1906 as a simple farmer's son from Bhanpura — was adopted as royal heir. He was dethroned in 1934 by the British, reinstated in 1937, and passed away on 18 September 1940 — leaving his 7-year-old son Digvijay Das as the heir.

Mahant Raja Digvijay Das Bairagi had 45 palaces. Yet he donated them all for the people — his grand palace for Digvijay Mahavidyalaya (today the largest college in Chhattisgarh), the Digvijay Hockey Stadium (Asia's largest, where Major Dhyan Chand played), Rs. 2 lakh to the Mahant Ghasi Das Museum, and established the Rajnandgaon Shiksha Mandal in 1957. On 22 January 1958, at just 25 years of age, he passed away.

Chapter 35

The Merger — 1948 and the Immortal Legacy

On 1 January 1948, Rajnandgaon Riyasat merged into the Indian Union. The Bairagi kings of Rajnandgaon gave to their people: India's first museum of central India (1875), first cotton mill (1882), free railway land for the Nagpur-Kolkata line, first printing press and newspaper (1889), a palace turned into a college, and Asia's largest hockey stadium.

When Chhattisgarh Chief Minister Vishnu Dev Sai was presented with this history, he said publicly: 'Until now I considered Bairagis only as mendicants. But knowing this history, I realise they were extraordinarily philanthropic and great kings. I did not know this glorious history until today.'

Sources: Book: Mahant Bane Maharaja | Digvijay College records | Autho
Reference sources: Royal family Lalla Jitendra Kishore Das Vaishnav; Th
Singh; Dr. Shailendra Singh; Hiren Das, Digvijay College; Dr. Chandrashe

Epilogue

The Forgotten Glory of the Nimbarka Bairagi Kings

Naresh Das Vaishnav Nimbark is a retired Indian Army Naib Subedar, international author, independent researcher, and historian. His research focuses on the history of Sanatan Vaishnav Bairagis, Nimbark Sampradaya, warrior saints, and forgotten chapters of Indian history. He is the author of several books dedicated to preserving India's spiritual and historicalNaresh Das Vaishnav Nimbark is a retired Indian Army Naib Subedar, international author, independent researcher, and historian. His research focuses on the history of Sanatan Vaishnav Bairagis, Nimbark Sampradaya, warrior saints, and forgotten chapters of Indian history. He is the author of several books dedicated to preserving India's spiritual and historicalNaresh Das Vaishnav Nimbark is a retired Indian Army Naib Subedar, international author, independent researcher, and historian. His research focuses on the history of Sanatan Vaishnav Bairagis, Nimbark

Sampradaya, warrior saints, and forgotten chapters of Indian history. He is the author of several books dedicated to preserving India's spiritual and historicalNaresh Das Vaishnav Nimbark is a retired Indian Army Naib Subedar, international author, independent researcher, and historian. His research focuses on the history of Sanatan Vaishnav Bairagis, Nimbark Sampradaya, warrior saints, and forgotten chapters of Indian history. He is the author of several books dedicated to preserving India's spiritual and historicalNaresh Das Vaishnav Nimbark is a retired Indian Army Naib Subedar, international author, independent researcher, and historian. His research focuses on the history of Sanatan Vaishnav Bairagis, Nimbark Sampradaya, warrior saints, and forgotten chapters of Indian history. He is the author of several books dedicated to preserving India's spiritual and historical

This book began with a question that haunted the author for eighteen years:

"Why has history forgotten them?"

The Vaishnav Bairagi kings ruled Indraprastha — the very seat of Delhi — for nearly fifty years. Veer Banda Bairagi fought ninety-one battles and never lost a single one. The Bairagi kings of Chhuikhadan and

Rajnandgaon governed two kingdoms for nearly two hundred years — building museums, cotton mills, railways, stadiums and colleges — and then donated everything to the people.

Yet today, in all of Rajnandgaon — the city they built — there is not a single signboard, not a single road, not a single statue that carries the word 'Bairagi'. The people whose ancestors built this city have been erased from its memory.

The Living Legacy

But the legacy of the Nimbarka Bairagi kings is not entirely forgotten. It lives in the Digvijay College that stands where a palace once stood. It lives in the Digvijay Hockey Stadium where Major Dhyan Chand played. It lives in the Mahant Ghasi Das Museum — one of India's 10 oldest. It lives in the 'Jai Gopal' greeting that still echoes through every street of Chhuikhadan. It lives in the memory of Raja Bhudar Kishore Das — who chose Ram over his throne.

The Author's Personal Testament

The author of this book is himself a Vaishnav Bairagi from Ramnagar, Haryana — the same Haryana from which Mahant Rup Das Bairagi went to Chhuikhadan in 1750, and where Veer Banda Bairagi received the support of the Bairagi monastery at Sehri Khanda, Sonipat.

When the author stood at the martyrdom site of Veer Banda Bairagi at Mehrauli, Delhi — he felt the presence of that great soul in the soil beneath his feet. When he stood in the palace of Chhuikhadan and heard 'Jai Gopal' echo from every direction — he felt the living breath of 270 years of history. When he saw Digvijay College — a palace turned into a seat of learning — he understood what these kings truly valued.

This book is the fruit of that understanding. It is the result of 18 years of walking, listening, reading, and

feeling. It is an act of remembrance — for the kings who gave everything, and asked for nothing.

"They were born as Bairagis. They lived as Bairagis. They died as Bairagis."

"Their rosary was their sword. Their palace was their offering."

"Their legacy is not in stone — it is in the living tradition of Sanatan dharma."

— Naresh Das Vaishnav Nimbark
Retired Naib Subedar, Indian Army | UN Veteran
Independent Historian | Ramnagar, Haryana | 2026
www.nareshswaminimbark.in

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20. Author's 18 years of field research (2006–2024) including visits to: Mehrauli Delhi, Akhnoor Jammu, 52 Bairagi Dwars, Sehri Khanda Sonipat, Chhuikhadan Palace, Digvijay College and Hockey

Stadium Rajnandgaon, Pandadah Jagannath Temple.

// Nimbarka Bairagi Kings — Complete //

Jai Shri Radhe Krishna | Jai Vaishnav Bairagi Samaj | Jai Hind | Jai Bharat

About the Author

Naresh Das Vaishnav Nimbark was born on 7 May 1964 in the small village of Ramnagar, Ganaur, Sonipat, Haryana — in a poor Vaishnav farmer's family of the Nimbarka tradition.

He served in the Indian Army for 24 years, retiring as Naib Subedar. He participated in the Kargil War and served as a United Nations Peacekeeper in Sierra Leone, West Africa — where he was held captive by militants, an experience that set him on the path of historical research.

After retirement, he spent 18 years in extensive field research — travelling village to village, temple to temple, and pilgrimage to pilgrimage — documenting the untold history of the Sanatan Vaishnav Bairagi tradition.

He is the founder and editor of Sanatan Bharat — Naya Savera, a free monthly digital e-magazine dedicated to the Sanatan Vaishnav Bairagi tradition, published in both Hindi and English.

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From Ramnagar to the World — The Glory of Sanatan Vaishnav Bairagi Tradition Lives On.